



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
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## NEWS RELEASE

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Embargo until: Immediate release – September 1, 2009

### **Regents to Hold September Board Meeting in Central Falls**

Continuing its plan to hold monthly Board meetings in community settings, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education will hold its September meeting on Thursday (Sept. 3), at 4 p.m., in the library of the Dr. Earl F. Calcutt Middle School, 112 Washington St., Central Falls.

“We were pleased by the large community turnout at our August meeting, which the Board held at the Juanita Sanchez Complex, in Providence,” said Robert G. Flanders, Jr., Esq., Chairman of the Board. “It was very helpful for the Regents to hear from members of the community, including parents, teachers, and students. We look forward this week to hearing from many residents of Central Falls.”

“As we prepare our action agenda for transforming our schools, the Regents and I will reach out to those who know our students best: parents, educators, and the students themselves,” said Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. “We want to hear about successes as well as about barriers to improvement, and we want community members to join with us as we work together to advance learning for all.”

Commissioner Gist noted the significance of holding a meeting in a Central Falls school.

“I am confident that the students in Central Falls are capable of achieving at much higher levels,” Gist said. “We need to develop clear interventions to address our lowest-performing schools. In many of our schools, such as the schools in Central Falls, this means making sure that we have the best practices for teaching diverse learners with language or developmental issues. The Regents and I pledge to work with communities to make sure this happens.”

In order to encourage attendance at the meeting on Thursday, the Regents have notified several community groups of the meeting, including Progreso Latino, Children’s Friend, Channel One/The Ralph J. Holden Community Center, Tides Family Services, RIPIN, and Latino Public Radio. The Regents have worked with the Central Falls School Department, UCAP, and the charter schools serving Central Falls students to notify community members about this meeting.

The Regents encourage members of the public and the media to attend the Board meeting on Thursday. Agenda items include approval of school-construction expenditures for Central Falls and discussions of the Central Falls School District and of facilities at the Rhode Island School for the Deaf.

The agenda is posted on the RIDE Web site:

[http://www.ride.ri.gov/Regents/Docs/MeetingAgenda/2009/20090903\\_regentsagenda.pdf](http://www.ride.ri.gov/Regents/Docs/MeetingAgenda/2009/20090903_regentsagenda.pdf)